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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/723,499

11/25/2003

Keith Rosiello

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EXAMINER

SORKIN, DAVID L

ART UNIT

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1797

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DELIVERY MODE

04/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,499	Applicant(s) ROSIELLO ET AL.	
	Examiner David L. Sorkin	Art Unit 1797	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 32-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 39-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 32-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 20 March 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-30 and 32-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The new recitations of a "reinforced" mating portion are new matter. Contrary to applicant's remarks, the instant drawings only show that portion "210" is curved out of the plane of the adjacent material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6, 11, 13-18, 24-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Drucker (US 3,675,846). Regarding claims 1,13 and 24, Drucker ('846) discloses a bag (81) (as well as a centrifuge comprising the bag) comprising a substantially circular enclosure including a first side (for example the top side in Fig. 3) and a second side (for example the bottom side in Fig. 3) radially connected to the first side along an outer edge, the first and second sides defining an interior surface therebetween (see Fig. 2), at least the first side having a central opening for housing a central hub (for example 55) and a first reinforced mating portion (the portion of the bag adjacent 55a and/or 55b and/or the recess near 55b which is in the interior surface of the bag) positioned adjacent to the central opening, along the interior surface of at least one of the first and second sides, and extending in a direction perpendicular to the surface, the first mating portion integral formed mating with a corresponding second mating portion (55a,55b) of a hub (55) (see Fig. 3). Regarding claims 2, 14 and 25, the first mating portion comprises an integrally molded radial barrier (see Fig. 3, near 55b). Regarding claim 3,15, and 26, the first mating portion comprises one or more recesses (see Fig. 3). Regarding claim 4, 16, and 27 the first mating portion comprises one or more raised areas (see Fig. 3). Regarding claims 5, 17 and 28, the radial barrier comprises a circumferential ring of raised material (see Fig. 3). Regarding claim 6, 18 and 29, the radial barrier comprises a circumferential recess (see Fig. 3). Regarding claim 11, the manner in which the bag is intended to be used is not germane to the patentability of the bag. Regarding claim 34, Drucker ('846) discloses a method of sealing a centrifuge bag to a hub comprising providing a bag (81), for use in centrifugal

processing, wherein the bag comprises a substantially circular enclosure including a first side (for example the top side in Fig. 3) and a second side (for example the bottom side in Fig. 3) radially connected to the first side along an outer edge, the first and second sides defining an interior surface therebetween (see Fig. 2), at least the first side having a central opening for housing a central hub (for example 55) and a first mating portion (the portion of the bag adjacent 55a and/or 55b and/or the recess near 55b which is in the interior surface of the bag) positioned adjacent to the central opening, along the interior surface of at least one of the first and second sides, and extending in a direction perpendicular to the surface; and providing a hub (55) having a second mating portion (55a, 55b) corresponding to the first mating portion, wherein the first mating portion is integrally formed for mating in a cooperative arrangement with the second mating portion; placing the hub within the opening; and mating the first mating portion with the second mating portion (see Fig. 3; col. 2, lines 49-60).

6. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mercier (US 4,610,369). Regarding claims 1 and 13, Mercier ('369) discloses a bag (33) comprising a substantially circular enclosure including a first side and a second side radially connected to the first side along an outer edge, the first and second sides defining an interior surface therebetween (see Figs. 2-4), at least one of the first and second sides having a central opening for housing a central hub; and a first mating portion (39) positioned adjacent to the central opening, along the interior surface of at least one of the first and second sides, and extending in a direction perpendicular to the interior surface, the first reinforced mating portion integrally formed for mating in a

cooperative arrangement with a corresponding second mating portion of a hub (27).

Regarding claims 2 and 14, the first mating portion comprises an integrally molded radial barrier (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claims 3, 9, 15 and 21, the first mating portion comprises one or more recesses formed adjacent the opening (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claims 4, 10, 16 and 22, the first mating portion comprises one or more raised areas formed adjacent the opening (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claims 5 and 17, the radial barrier comprises a circumferential ring of raised material (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claims 6 and 18, the radial barrier comprises a circumferential recess (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claims 7 and 19, the bag includes a first side and second side, each side having a respective opening (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claims 8 and 20, each side includes a first mating portion (see Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 6). Regarding claim 11, the manner in which the bag is intended to be used is not germane to the patentability of the bag. Regarding claims 12 and 23, the bag further comprises at least one weld ring having a central opening for receiving a first side of the hub and a surface positioned adjacent the first side of the bag proximate the opening of the first side (see Fig. 3).

7. Claims 1-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jorgensen et al. (US 2002/0107131). Regarding claims 1, 13 and 24, Jorgensen ('131) discloses a bag (10, 50, 94, or 96) (as well as a centrifuge comprising the bag) comprising a substantially circular enclosure including a first side and a second side radially connected along an outer edge, the first sides defining an interior surface therebetween, at least one of the first and second sides having a central opening (such

as 11 or 51) for housing a central hub, and a first reinforced mating portion (for example 100) positioned adjacent the central opening, along the interior surface of at least one of the first and second side, and extending in a direction perpendicular to the interior surface, the mating portion integrally formed for mating in a cooperative arrangement with a corresponding second mating portion of a hub (20,60,104). See [0043].

Regarding claims 2, 14, and 25, the first mating portion comprises an integrally molded radial barrier (see Figs. 1 and 11). Regarding claims 3, 9, 15, 21, and 26, the first mating portion comprises one or more recesses formed adjacent the opening (see especially Fig. 1). Regarding claims 4, 10, 16, 22 and 27 the first mating portion comprises one or more raised areas formed adjacent the opening (see Figs. 1 and 11).

Regarding claims 5, 17 and 28, the radial barrier comprises a circumferential ring of raised material (see Figs. 1 and 11). Regarding claims 6, 18 and 29, the radial barrier comprises a circumferential recess (see Figs. 1 and 11). Regarding claims 7 and 19, the bag includes a first side and second side, each side having a respective opening (see Fig. 1, 3, 7 and 11). Regarding claims 8 and 20, each side includes a first mating portion (see Fig. 1, 3, 7 and 11). Regarding claim 11, the manner in which the bag is intended to be used is not germane to the patentability of the bag. Regarding claims 12 and 23, the bag further comprises at least one weld ring (30, 40, 70, 80, 100 or 102) having a central opening for receiving a first side of the hub and a surface positioned adjacent the first side of the bag proximate the opening of the first side. Regarding claim 34, Jorgensen ('131) discloses a method of sealing a centrifuge bag to a hub comprising providing a bag (10, 50, 94 or 96) for use in centrifugal processing, wherein

Art Unit: 1797

the bag comprises a substantially circular enclosure including a first side and a second side radially connected to the first side along an outer edge, the first and second sides defining an interior therebetween, at least one of the first and second side having a central opening (such as 11 or 51) for housing a central hub, wherein the central opening includes a first mating portion (see Figs. 1 and 11) positioned adjacent to the central opening, along the interior surface of at least one of the first and second sides, and extending in a direction perpendicular to the interior surface; and providing a hub (20, 60 or 104) having a second portion corresponding to the first mating portion, wherein the first mating portion integrally formed for mating in a cooperative arrangement with the second mating portion; and placing the hub with in the opening; and mating the first mating portion with the second mating portion (see [0043], [0050], Figs. 1-8 and 11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jorgensen et al. (US 2002/0107131). The method of Jorgensen was discussed above with regard to claim 34. While the verb “welding” is not expressly used by the reference, “weld rings” are extensively discussed (see [0047] and [0050]). The

discussion of “weld rings” would have suggested welding, either with heat or with solvent, to one of ordinary skill in the art.

10. Claims 30, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jorgensen et al. (US 2002/0107131) in view of Schlutz (US 3,982,691). Jorgensen ('131) discloses a method of sealing a centrifuge bag to a hub comprising providing a bag (10, 50, 94 or 96) for use in centrifugal processing, wherein the bag comprises a substantially circular enclosure including a first side and a second side radially connected to the first side along an outer edge, the first and second sides defining an interior surface therebetween, at least one of the first and second sides having a central opening (such as 11 or 51), wherein the central opening is for housing a central hub, wherein the central opening includes a first mating portion (see Figs. 1 and 11) positioned adjacent to the central opening, along the interior of at least one of the first and second sides and extending in a direction perpendicular to the interior surface; and providing a hub (20, 60 or 104) having a second portion corresponding to the first mating portion; placing the hub within the opening; and mating the first mating portion with the second mating portion (see [0043], [0050], Figs. 1-8 and 11). Use of adhesive is not explicitly disclosed. Schlutz ('691) teaches joining components of a centrifuge bag assembly using adhesive (see col. 12, lines 1-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have joined the portions of Jorgensen ('131) using adhesive, because, since Jorgensen ('131) explains that joining is required but does not detail exactly how, one would look to prior art methods of joining such as those of Schlutz ('691), col. 12, lines 1-9.

Response to Arguments

11. Contrary to applicant's remarks, the instant drawings only show that portion "210" is curved out of the plane of the adjacent material, and do not show it being thicker.

12. Applicant argues that Drucker "does not describe any portion of the bag being 'reinforced' in any way". While Drucker does not use the term "reinforced", this is only another manner in which Drucker is identical to the instant application. Drucker has the same type of raised portion structure as the instant application.

13. Mercier ('369) clear has a thick reinforced mating portion (39).

14. The examiner considers "100" to be a thick mating portion of the bag of Jorgensen ('131). It is integral joined with the remaining portion of the bag.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L. Sorkin whose telephone number is 571-272-1148. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:00 Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Sorkin/

David L. Sorkin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797

DLS